

**Board of Health Meeting MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, April 6, 2022**  
**Commission Chambers Room 105, 325 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N, Great Falls MT 59401**  
**and Via Zoom Webinar**

**Members Present:**

Matt Martin, DDS  
Tom Moore  
Amanda Ball  
Mayor Bob Kelly  
Commissioner Joe Briggs  
Dr. Geyer, DO

**Staff/Visitors Present:**

Bowen Trystianson–Interim Health Officer, Carey Ann Haight–County Attorney, Phoebe Marcinek–County Attorney, Sandy Johnson– Superfund Site Coordinator, Melanie McKinzie Swartz–Office & Accreditation Coordinator, Ben Spencer–Communications & Privacy Officer, Colin Campbell–Preparedness & Community Planner, Sarah Cozino–PHEP Program Planner, Rachel Doran–MT CONNECT Coordinator, Laura Brusky–Sanitarian, Caleen Tacke–Oral Health Educator, Joey McDermid–Accountant, Abigail Hill, Nicole Gerten, Wade Stout, Lacey Gallagher, Rebecca Pulley

***Dr. Martin opened the meeting at 11:39 a.m. A quorum was present.***

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. Approve Minutes from March 2, 2022, BOH Meeting: Dr. Martin**

Mayor Kelly made a motion, “...to approve the minutes.” Dr. Geyer seconded the motion. There were no public comments. With all board members voting in favor, the minutes were approved.

**2. COVID-19: Mr. Trystianson**

Mr. Trystianson provided the COVID-19 Report.

- COVID-19
  - 16 new cases
  - 19 active cases
  - 64 cases (past 3 weeks)
  - 0 deaths (past 2 weeks)
  - 2.8% daily case rate
  - No reports of variant BA.2
  - COVID-19 Community Levels remain low. CDC recommends staying up to date on vaccines, testing if symptomatic and mask usage if sick or testing positive.
- COVID-19 at home tests available at CCHD.
- CCHD is working with Montana State DPHHS to secure PCR testing equipment for travel between Montana and Canada.

**3. BOH Governing Body Update: Commissioner Briggs**

Commissioner Briggs provided the BOH “governing body” update.

- Temporary agreement is in place between the City and County through June 30, 2022.
- City Commissioner McKenney and Commissioner Briggs continue to meet to work on the new agreement.

**4. Health Officer Hiring Process Update: Dr. Martin**

Dr. Martin reported on the Health Officer hiring process.



- Eight applicants for the position.
- Screening tool provided to the BOH. Return scoring sheets to Ms. Haight.
- The BOH screening tool will be used to identify candidates to be interviewed.
- A list of interview questions will be provided for the BOH to review.
- Interviews will be recorded on Zoom, and BOH members will receive an invitation.

##### **5. Family Health Services Report: Ms. Doran/ Ms. Tacke**

Ms. Doran provided a MT CONNECT update.

- CONNECT is a statewide bi-directional referral system used for provider-to-provider referrals.
- Ms. Doran started as the CONNECT Coordinator in October 2019. She onboarded approximately 63 agencies during the pandemic.
- The State conducted a legal review of CONNECT in November 2021.
  - CONNECT is changing from an MOU agreement to a per user basis.
  - The State interviewed Alluvion, Benefis and CCHD regarding the new changes.
  - A statewide meeting will occur April 20, 2022, and the new program will be relaunched.

Ms. Tacke provided a report on the Oral Health Program.

- Ms. Tacke provides face to face oral hygiene classroom education.
- Oral health education classes are offered to children in grades 2 and 4 in Cascade County schools. Each student receives a toothbrush, toothpaste, and dental floss.
- Kindergarten "Brush-In" toothbrushing demonstrations were completed last February.
- Ms. Tacke presented an oral health story and activities at the Great Falls Public Library's Children's Story hour. Dental assistant students from the college helped with the lessons. The kindergarten students received toothbrushes, toothpaste, and a story book.
- School dental screenings are back in the schools.
  - 21 volunteer dentists.
  - 34 school dental screenings to date.
  - Screenings held for grades 1, 3 and 5.
  - Results from the screenings provide parents the status of their child's oral health. Children in need of oral care are referred to a dental provider.
- 4,791 students have benefited from the Oral Health Program.
- The program continues to seek funding to offset the cost of essential supplies
  - Received \$1,000 from Benefis through the United Way.
  - Discovery Grant application has been submitted.
- Ms. Tacke was invited to join a Great Falls Public Schools Board Meeting and provide an Oral Health Program update.

##### **6. Environmental Health Report: Ms. Johnson**

Ms. Johnson provided the Environmental Health Division Report.

- Staffing
  - 1.5 Sanitarian positions open.
  - 1 Environmental Health Division Manager open.
- Program Restructuring
  - Rabies Program transitioning to Prevention Services.
  - 62 Bite reports year to date.
- Ms. Johnson and Ms. Brusky are managing land use, building, and subdivisions.
- 16% (28) licensed establishment inspections completed year to date, target is 25%.
- QI project to streamline plan review implemented for 2022.



7. **Superfund Site Report: Ms. Johnson**

Ms. Johnson advised no new updates for the Superfund Sites.

8. **Prevention Services Report: Mr. Trystianson**

Mr. Trystianson provided the Prevention Services Report.

**Communicable Disease Report**

- Communicable diseases levels are normal for the time of year
- Moving into summer, gastrointestinal illnesses such as salmonella, *E. coli* and *Giardia* normally increase.
- Influenza normally tends to decline April into May.
- Disease Investigation Specialists (2) are training to take over the Rabies Program from Environmental Health.
- Nurse Practitioner, Pauline Conway, hired as Clinical Provider/Medical Director for CCHD. This will allow for the expanding of services and care for chronic diseases.
- Syphilis
  - 15 cases year to date versus 31 for 2021.
  - The Board accepted a public question regarding syphilis from Rebecca Pulley. Mr. Trystianson advised the following:
    - Additional provider and facilities awareness/screenings for STI's.
    - Drug usage.
    - Early signs of syphilis can be easily missed.

9. **Administration Report: Mr. Trystianson**

Mr. Trystianson provided the Administration Report.

**Personnel Updates**

- Preparedness and Community Planner, Colin Campbell, started March 30, 2022, and is currently updating the Emergency Response Plans.
- Melanie Mckinzie Swartz is resigning effective April 15, 2022.

**Finance**

- Continuing to bill for mass flu vaccination clinics.
  - \$154,000 Immunizations revenue received year to date.
- \$71,224 WIC funding received in March.
- FDA grant awarded in February. The grant runs from January to December.
- FY 2023 County budget planning is in process.

10. **Public Comments**

Dr. Martin opened the floor for public comment.

- Rebecca Pulley inquired about Environmental Funding reflected on the Finance report.
- Commissioner Briggs clarified the funding reflected on the report is not funding for clean-up, but rather for Superfund Site institutional controls. These are for property owners that must move soil in Superfund Site locations to mitigate new contamination.

11. **Member Comments**

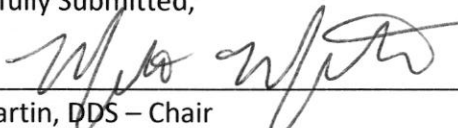
- Dr. Geyer advised the Board he will retire at the end of the year. He will talk to some of his colleagues about serving on the Board of Health.
- Commissioner Briggs commented, "I personally think it's critical" to have a medical provider on the Board, and recognized Dr. Geyer has "...been a stabilizing force through COVID."

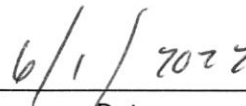
- Mr. Moore concurred with Commissioner Briggs regarding Dr. Geyer's service on the Board.
- Dr. Martin mentioned upcoming changes for Board of Health minutes format.

**Adjournment**

*Dr. Martin adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Matt Martin, DDS – Chair

  
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Date